

Beneficial Re-Use of Dredged Material Facts and Policies

Facts

- One hundred million cy/mi could be needed to meet the ultimate CALFED goals. Recent levee projects in the western Delta have used 100,000 cubic yards per mile (cy/mi). A program for use of clean materials dredged from ship channels and harbors for levee rehabilitation and habitat development could greatly reduce these costs.
- Dredging in the San Francisco Bay area creates an annual disposal requirement of approximately 6 million cubic yards per year (mcy/yr) of dredged material. There are proposals to deepen existing projects that total approximately 19 mcy. One hundred thousand cy/yr of sediment dredged from Delta channels is also a potentially valuable resource.
- Re-use plans must recognize that dredged fill material must be carefully managed to prevent degradation of delta water quality. It is likely that some material will not be suitable for re-use.
- The SB-34 program, through coordination with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has successfully conducted beneficial re-use levee projects on Twitchell (50,000 cy), Sherman (1,500 cy) and Jersey (70,000 cy) islands. Monitoring costs of over \$275,000 have revealed no significant impacts.
- Dredge material placed on Venice Cut and Donlon Island in 1984 has led to the natural re-establishment of 80 acres of very significant and well recognized wetland and upland habitats.
- A CALFED technical sub-team has been formed with members from BCDC, CVRWQCB, USACE, the Bay Planning Coalition, and DWR to identify the issues regarding beneficial re-use of dredge material. The sub-team is investigating:
 - using a GIS database for management of dredge material data including sediment quality, and historical monitoring results
 - developing sediment traps for harvesting clean material on regular intervals
 - developing dredge material stockpile sites in the Delta to store material until it is needed
 - permit streamlining to reduce project costs
 - establishing a Dredged Material Management Office to coordinate Delta beneficial re-use projects and establish sediment quality criteria
 - conducting further demonstration projects of dredged material reuse

Policy Issues

- Broad based cost-sharing by all participants.
- Actions that would encourage the USACE to aggressively pursue beneficial re-use projects instead of open water disposal.

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Consensus

Consensus does not mean there are no differences of opinion. For purposes of this effort, consensus is a process used to define the highest level of agreement without dividing the parties into factions. Everyone in the group supports, agrees to, or can live with a particular decision. If consensus can not be reached, agreement by a majority of the work group members and minority opinions may be relayed to CALFED.